U.S. SENATOR

PETE WILSON

REPORTS TO CALIFORNIA

WINTER 1985

Dear Fellow Californian,

As each new year dawns, our hopes for peace and prosperity are renewed, and 1985 has had an auspicious beginning.

We have already met the Soviet Union at the peace table in Geneva to lay the groundwork for renewing nuclear arms control talks, which are now scheduled to begin in March.

We certainly can have no more important resolution for the new year than to support our negotiators as they seek a new treaty with the Soviet Union, and it is a task for which we must summon all our resolve, for it will not be easy.

On the domestic front, the President and the Senate are going about the business of reducing the federal deficit, another Herculean task.

But we must get government back in the black so as to bring interest rates down further and keep the economy growing and creating jobs.

International trade is already creating lots of jobs here in the Golden State, and even more new jobs will result from the accord the President reached with Japan early in January that will make trade between our countries more of a two-way street.

These are the subjects addressed in this newsletter, along with a look at some of the major legislative achievements of the last two years, including the California wilderness bill and revision of federal criminal laws.

We have great challenges ahead of us in the 99th Congress. My hope is that the nation is marked by an even greater peace and prosperity than we enjoyed in the past two years, and I will work toward that goal.

Pete

Ax Must Fall On Deficit

Wilson Calls For Long-Term Changes to Guarantee Lasting Ban On Red Ink

President Reagan unveiled his new budget to the Congress in February, and in our joint efforts to cut the national deficit we are certain to spark a furor of protest over budget cuts and tax reforms.

But the American people are united in the belief that the deficit must be whittled substantially in the next few years and eliminated entirely as soon as possible thereafter.

While the short-term remedy may be painful, the new beginning we made four years ago must go on if we are to permanently bring the hemorrhage of federal spending under control.

Once the necessary steps are taken to reduce the deficit, and eventually to bring the budget into balance, it is crucial that we adopt changes in the system of federal spending that will guarantee that this country will never again find itself in such a quandary.

First, we need a constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget. The California state constitution requires a balanced budget, as do the majority of other states. It works in statehouses around the country, and there's really no good reason why it can't work in the nation's capital.

Second, we must give the President line item veto power. Currently, if the President objects to just a part of a bill, he must nevertheless veto the entire bill, and in doing so, paralyze funds for vital programs. With a line item veto, the President could send objectionable "pork barrel" items back to Congress.

Trade Pace Quickens

Abundant Benefits Will Be Reaped As California Stake In World Trade Grows

California's economy is among the world's largest -- in fact, if the Golden State were a nation, our gross national product would rank higher than all but seven countries, rivaling the likes of Canada, Italy, and China.

A large and growing part of California's prosperous economy is international trade. Both importing and exporting are big business here. From agricultural commodities to high technology, we sell our products around the world. And as consumers we enjoy the price advantage of imported automobiles, clothing, and other products.

Trade accounts for an estimated 1 million jobs in California's manufacturing, service, and farming sectors. That's $10.5 billion in payroll for the state's workers, $3.5 billion in taxes flowing into the state's treasury, and $35 billion in revenue earned by state businesses.

A great deal of this growing sector of the California economy is in trade with the Pacific rim market.

Since 1960, total U.S. exports to the Far East have grown by 1,200 percent. Not only do a great share of these exports come from California, but also most of the products from the rest of the U.S. flow through our ports on their way to the Orient, which in turn boosts our shipping industry.

In all, international trade through California amounted to 15 percent of the U.S. total of $458.6 billion in trade in 1983.

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A Look At The 99th Congress

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Trade Powers California Economy

Brisk Goods Flow Creates Jobs, More Consumer Choices

(from p.1)

At a meeting in Los Angeles in early January, President Reagan and Japanese Prime Minister Yashuhiro Nakasone agreed to work together to open Japanese markets to more U.S. products. This country is especially interested in boosting our exports of high-tech electronics, forest products, pharmaceuticals and advanced medical and telecommunications equipment to Japan, all of which are big business here in California.

But even as the Pacific rim rises in importance to California and the West, many U.S. policy-makers back in Washington, D.C. continue to look the other way. Backward-looking policies that favor protectionism over free trade remain popular in too many quarters.

That's why I've promoted opening markets and removing barriers to free trade since I came to the Senate.

Specifically, I have opposed domestic content legislation that would have drastically increased the price of foreign automobiles and other big-ticket manufactured imports. While this bill passed the House of Representatives, it was defeated in the Senate.

I also opposed the establishment of import quotas on Japanese steel, upon which California is very dependent. President Reagan wisely resisted pressure to adopt such quotas.

In the area of agricultural trade, I have also been active advocating California's interests, and last year Japan in particular pledged to import more U.S. beef and citrus.

Farmers Push Free Trade To Boost Food and Fiber Exports

American farmers export around one third of their crops, and California farmers account for over ten percent of all U.S. farm exports.

In 1982, for example, California farmers exported 80 percent of their cotton crop, over half of the wheat crop, and 30 percent of the rice crop, and significant percentages of dozens of other commodities.

With so much at stake in the international trading arena, it's no wonder that American agriculture is coalescing into one of the most potent free-trade forces in the country today.

Agriculture realizes that protectionism in any one area can cause retaliation in another -- and with agriculture being the single largest exporting sector of our economy, it's easily the easiest target.

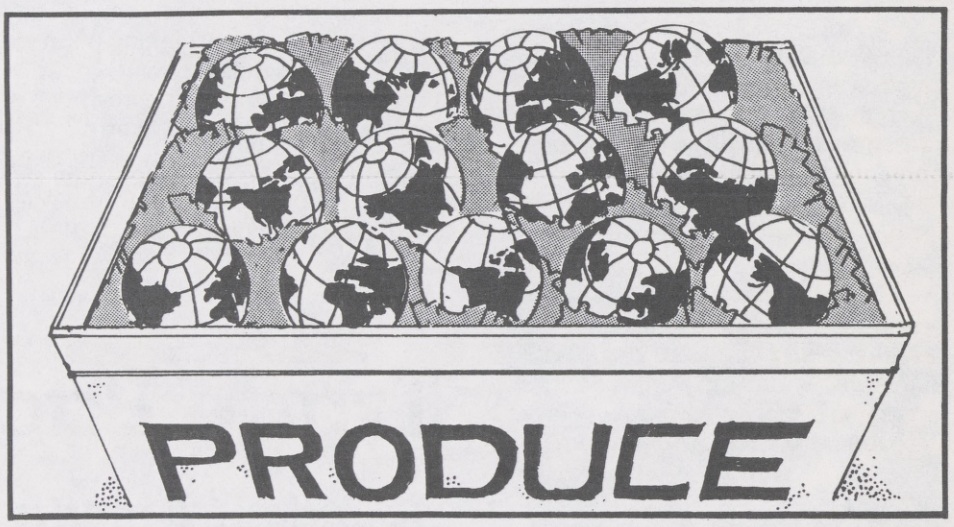
Accordingly, I place a high priority on agricultural issues, and have worked together with the agricultural community to oppose protectionist measures.

We have fought successfully against domestic content laws, steel import quotas, and other protectionist measures. And at the same time, we have opened the doors to many of our farm products in foreign markets.

We won greater access for our beef and citrus to the Japanese market. We forced the Common Market to drop a prohibitive non-tariff barrier to American wines. We negotiated a new long-term wheat deal with the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, we made certain that new agreements to boost free trade -- specifically with Israel, Canada, and certain Third World countries -- were fair to agriculture.

When trade is free, everyone gains. Protectionism may appear to have short-term gains, but in the long run it hurts consumers and producers alike.



Peace Initiative Begun

Stage Is Set for New Talks with Soviets; U.S. To Seek Bilateral Arms Reductions

The eyes of the world were on Geneva, Switzerland in January as our hopes for reducing the threat of nuclear war rested on the shoulders of Secretary of State George Shultz and U.S.S.R. Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko as they met to lay the groundwork for nuclear arms reductions talks.

Our hopes for a real and lasting peace and for the reduction of weapons of mass destruction, however, do not overshadow our fundamental covenant to protect the security of our nation and the freedoms we cherish.

This administration rightly placed the national interest above election year expediency when it refused to make empty gestures to the Soviets on arms talks last year. We had offered fair and equitable proposals and had indicated our flexibility on alternatives. It was the Soviets who walked out on further discussions.

Now the Soviets have prudently decided to return to the table; it is in their own best interest. They understand the mandate accorded President Reagan and respect his commitment to American security.

Much has been made of the relation between our initiatives to defend America from ballistic missiles -- via the Strategic Defense Initiative -- and renewed Soviet interest in arms talks. The link is clearly there. But responsible leaders on both ends of the political spectrum agree that this is no reason to abandon our research effort on a space-based "shield" to protect us from nuclear weapons.

The question is not whether we should trade our defenses for Soviet offenses, but rather how we agree to reduce all nuclear forces, both offensive and defensive, while protecting our obligation to defend our citizens and allies from force or threat of force.

It will take time and it will take determination both at the table and at home to make this wish a reality. But I believe this historic new beginning in Geneva can lead to real reductions in nuclear weapons and in the risk of a nuclear holocaust.

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Preserving Our Quality Of Life

Scenic Areas Safeguarded

Wilderness Compromise Ends 20-Year Dispute

California is a beautiful and bountiful state, yet it is that very combination of natural beauty and natural resources that is the source of some of our most bitter debates.

The 20-year debate over California wilderness finally ended in 1984 when President Reagan signed the bill crafted by myself and Senator Alan Cranston.

Our compromise bill struck a middle ground between the 1.2 million acres proposed by the Forest Service in 1979, as supported by development interests, and the 2.4 million acres the U.S. House of Representatives had approved at the request of conservationists.

Senator Cranston and I, after an exhaustive acre-by-acre review of all the lands under consideration, selected the areas we felt were appropriate for wilderness by equally weighing environmental and developmental concerns. The areas we settled on totalled about 1.8 million acres.

The wilderness compromise bill forged by Senator Wilson includes designation of 83 miles of the Tuolumne River in Yosemite Canyon as a Wild and Scenic River.

Now that the bill has become law, many vital development projects that had been deadlocked by legal questions over the wilderness designations can proceed, creating much-needed jobs.

The bill also added the last undeveloped 83 miles of Yosemite's Tuolumne River -- considered one of America's most beautiful -- to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Balancing economic and environmental concerns in difficult. To reconcile the need to use our natural resources to feed, clothe, and shelter the population with the desire to protect scenic wonderlands for future generations to enjoy requires difficult choices.

But those choices, no matter how hard, must be made if California is to continue to be both a land of beauty and a land of opportunity.

Wilson Favors Sensible OCS Development Plan

It is crucial that California develop its offshore energy resources, but not at the expense of the coastal economy or the coastal environment. We must protect the marine life and the beaches so critical to California's fishing and tourist industries, at the same time that the quest for energy independence occurs off our coast.

Since I came to the Senate, I've supported a balanced approach to offshore oil development.

I have consistently worked for a ban on nearshore drilling in environmentally sensitive coastal areas, as well as any such activities that would interfere with the Navy's use of California's waters for military and national security purposes.

The moratorium on nearshore drilling I spearheaded in 1983 remains in effect, and in early 1984, the Interior Department announced its plans to significantly scale back federal oil and gas development activities.

Put off until 1987 are any possible federal oil and gas lease sales on millions of acres of near-shore tracts off northern and central California, without affecting existing and proven oil and gas fields.

Furthermore, it was announced that the Interior Department would delete 70 percent of the most sensitive nearshore tracts in Lease Sale #80 from possible future development. Since Lease Sale #80 covers the California coast from Ventura County to the Mexican border, including the Santa Barbara Channel, this is a key decision.

I am also working to insure that states have more input in federal oil and gas leasing decisions, and that they be allowed to share in the revenues from such federal activities.

I am a sponsor of a bill to assure that state input is considered at the leasing stage of federal OCS development. In effect, its passage would overturn the Supreme Court's 1983 decision that the federal government need not be in consistency with state coastal zone management plans in order for lease sales to occur.

Billions of dollars are pouring into the U.S. Treasury from federal offshore oil and gas lease sales, and I've sponsored a bill to provide for a revenue sharing agreement so that those funds can be spent on coastal research and management in the areas in which OCS development occurs.

Urban Parks Growing Need

Wilson Urges Additions To California Parklands

As California grows, our need for recreation areas expands accordingly. With our population of 25 million expected to grow to 30 million by the year 2000, we must seize opportunities to prudently acquire new parklands.

Since my election to the Senate over two years ago, I've worked for more parklands throughout California.

Perhaps the biggest success was adding Sweeney Ridge -- an historic hillside above Pacifica from which Spanish explorers first sighted San Francisco Bay – to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

I've also favored adding more land to Pt. Reyes National Seashore in Marin County, the Channel Islands National Park in the Santa Barbara Channel, and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area near Los Angeles.

While preservation of open lands must be balanced with the need for job-creating development projects in each case, ample parklands are a key ingredient in California's quality of life.

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Voting Record

Senators must wear many hats, but I think that our most important role is in casting our votes on legislation. No one else can take my place by voting for me, and there's certainly no such thing as an absentee ballot.

That's why I make it a point to be in attendance when votes are taken in the Senate. In fact, I've compiled a 98% attendance record for the 98th Congress -- including 1983 and 1984.

Last year, I missed five out of 275 roll call votes taken. My record tied for sixth among Senators of my own party and ninth overall.

While many votes are either routine or lopsided, a significant number are decided by narrow margins, so it's important that every Senator be there.

Representatives of the people are expected to do just that – represent our constituents in the policy decisions of our government. When I cast a vote, it's your vote. If I don't cast that vote, you are robbed of your choice in national policy.

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Congress OKs Crime Bill

Sweeping Overhaul Of U.S. Crime Laws Reflects Spirit Of Victim's Bill Of Rights

In spite of recent statistics showing the crime rate is falling, the U.S. Justice Department says the chance you'll be involved in a violent crime is greater than your chance of being hurt in a car wreck.

And for most of 1984, it looked like Congress would again refuse to do anything about crime. Although the Senate passed a strong anti-crime bill last February, it languished in the House Judiciary Committee until House members, anxious over their prospects for re-election, suddenly and overwhelmingly moved to act on the anti-crime measure. As a result, the President recently signed the most sweeping overhaul of the nation's criminal statutes in history.

First, bail law is revised to allow federal judges for the first time to take into account not only the likelihood of a defendant skipping town before trial but also whether his pretrial release could pose a danger to the community.

Second, the new law requires a five-year sentence for any person convicted of committing a federal crime while using a firearm -- and tacks five more years on top of that if the crime involves prior armor-piercing "cop killer" bullets. Such prison terms would be mandatory -- without appeal to the U.S. Parole Commission, which would be phased out.

Third, the insanity defense would be significantly revised. From now on, a defendant who pleads innocent by reason of insanity would have to prove he did not know what he was doing and did not know that it was wrong.

The package contains much more -- some 23 provisions in all.

All these changes will apply only to federal statutes. But they set a high standard for state legislators and local officials alike. And they reflect accurately, I think, the spirit of the people's revolt against leniency toward criminals that began with California's "Victim's Bill of Rights."

Caseworkers Can Help You To Cut Through Federal Red Tape

When artificial heart recipient William Schroeder took the opportunity of a get-well phone call from President Reagan to request that the President cut through the red tape Schroeder was encountering at the Social Security office, it was an example of the frustration Americans often feel when dealing with the federal bureaucracy.

Elected officials like myself can help you in such cases. I have a staff of trained individuals -- known as caseworkers -- who know how to negotiate the complicated twists and turns of federal regulations. Although my caseworkers are headquartered in my San Francisco office, all of my offices do casework.

Here's an example of how a case proceeds. You may recall reading about the six-month old French donkey that two San Diego veterinarians brought into the country in December only to be told by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that they could not prove that the animal was free of disease.

The vets argued the tests U.S.D.A. had used on the donkey were designed for horses and therefore worthless on donkeys. But in a classic Catch-22, U.S.D.A. ordered the donkey destroyed.

It took many of my staff members working on the case to save the donkey's life. But Sonnette -- French for "Little Bell" -- is safe now. Eventually she'll be bred as part of an effort to repopulate her nearly-extinct species.

My caseworkers aren't miracle workers -- they can only help solve problems with the federal government. But if you have such a problem, and you don't know where to turn, they may be able to help.

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